BUSINESS TRAINING. A Practical Education Preferable to Clas-

sical Learning. Some years ago we had the pleasure of listening to a discussion between two gentlemen regarding the training of their sons. One of them was a man of peculiar eccentricities, and the other was a man who did not have many erochets or crankyisms. Both of them were wealthy, being very successful business men, self-made in every respect. Their views upon the matter of training their boys were widely apart. The first one was a great believer in giving his son a plain, wholesome business education, the other had a deep-seated conviction that his sons should have in every respect a most classical education, and take a professional line for their future vocation. The arguments used by the first in favor of the practical business education were to our minds most valuable and certainly unanswerable. He said that he had built up a large and successful business and that his ambition in life was to have his sons succeed him, and for this reason he would leave no stone unturned in order to equip them for their business career. Latin he regarded as a good thing for men who desired to waste their time in studying the past; a past, he said, that had become utterly useless for any practical purpose. The comfort and happiness of mankind did not depend upon the derivation of the word, or of the translation of a Greek poem. The past to him was absolutely useless; view?" indeed, worthless, except for the experience that it gave. While he had a respect for many of the things, persons and historical reminiscences, his great belief was centered in the future. He regarded a man like Stephenson, or a man like Edison, as worth all the Homers that history has ever produced. They had given to the world something that was a practical benefit, that tended to make the human race happier and better increase the comfort of mankind in general. He was in every respect a practical philosopher without knowing | certain people-refined, attractive peoit. We have hardly any necessity to ple-is almost like death itself." say that his sons proved to be all that he could desire.

There is too much egotism in the parents of the present day. It is an horrible?" egotism that some may admire, but as a rule it results in considerable mischief being done. It is generally conceded that the majority of successful business men spring from the ranks, and many of these, while being sound on most business transactions, have an ambition that their sons must pursue a different course than follow in their footsteps. The result is that many of the large business houses which have existed for a great length of time gradually get out new blood having to be imported in order to keep up their reputation and standing.

Business training is quite as necessary for successful business ventures as military and naval training is to make successful generals and successful admirals. We must grant that training alone will make neither of these; there must be some good groundwork and material to work upon. Take the sea captain as an illustration. You could not take a fireman from the hold of the ship and place him in command of one of the large ocean steamers without running a risk that would be condemned and in many eases criminally idiotic. Fancy a man who had been used to riding in a streetcar for every couple of blocks that he had to go, getting up in the morning just in time to bolt his breakfast and jog to business, entering into a tenmile race in competition with a trained athlete, and you can fancy what a ridiculous exhibition he would make of himself. There is the same relationship in business matters as there is in any of the above illustrations. Business education in many of the higher schools is neglected entirely for the sake of Greek and Latin. We once heard a practical old fogy say that there was more time wasted on dead languages in our colleges than would make a nation wealthy. There is a great deal of truth in what he says, and the time is not far distant when our colleges will be to a certain extent remodeled. Indeed, the remodelling is taking place gradually and surely every day, and the sooner our professors take a practical view of the matter the better it will be for the progress and development of the country.-National Grocer.

## Effect of Bad Positions.

An erect bodily attitude is of vastly more importance to health than most people generally imagine. Crooked bodily positions, maintained for any length of time, are always injurious, whether in a sitting, standing or lying position, whether sleeping or working. To sit with the body leaning forward on the stomach or to one side, with the heels elevated on a level with the hands, is not only in bad taste, but exceedingly detrimental to health. It eramps the stomach, presses the vital organs, interrupts the free motion of the chest, and enfeebles the functions of the abdominal and thoracic organs, and, in fact, unbalances the whole muscular system. Many children become slightly humpbacked or severely roundshouldered by sleeping with the head raised on a high pillow.-Standard.

Love Among the Indians. A writer in a paper devoted to the interests of women tells in very romantic and pathetic style how the Sioux brave woos the maiden of his choice. The young buck is said to spend several days in constructing a reed flute, upon which, without any previous musical instruction, he performs a werid and plaintive melody. Squaws may not have cultivated ears for music, but they are not to be fooled that way. It takes ponies and blankets to capture squaws, and any young brave not provided with sufficient wealth, who goes whistling around the wigwam, would get a welt over the scalp lock with papa's calumet. -Texas Siftings.

### Misst Photographs.

A singular business announcement over a certain photograph gallery is: "Misfit photographs for sale." This, we are told, brings many customers. Mothers, for iastance, who have little children, often buy pictures of children with long hair when the hair of their loved ones has not grown, and send them round to friends at a distance. Brides' photographs are also said to sell pery well.—Chambers' Journal.

### A ROMANCE

# TWO BROTHERS.

BY EDGAR FAWCETT. AUTHOR OF "THE CONFESSIONS OF CLAUD." "AN AMBITIOUS WOMAN," "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO," "A NEW YORK

FANILY," ETC. [Copyright, 1890, By Edgar Fawcett.]

CHAPTER IV .- CONTINUED. "And you don't mind being left alone? She shrugged her firm and shapely shoulders. "I never care to be alone. But I don't mind if Sylvan leaves me

now and then. It isn't that." Thorndyke pretended to appear dismayed. "What are these dreadful revelations? You want other society than

Sylvan's?" She gave him the faintest smile of indifference, as though she ignored this question, or rather as though she chose to put it capriciously aside. "I'm very fond of life," she said, slipping both hands behind her head and clasping them there, so that her back-fallen sleeves evidenced the swelling pearl of her arms, from neat wrist to dimpled

of the word.' "And pray tell me what is your sense

of the word? "Oh! to mix with people and enjoy your youth. He doesn't care to do that. Besides, we haven't money enough to do it. He doesn't complaim about any slimness of the household purse. He lets me spend more dollars than I ought to spend. But we're nobodies-that is, we're nobodies from my point of view." in New York-from your point of

"Having lots of money-giving fine entertainments. You're a nonentity here, if you don't. It doesn't make the remotest difference who your grandfather was. If you haven't a big bank account you're sent to the wall."

"And you're tired of being sent to the Lucia Maynard sighed. "I'm tired of

not living.' "And you think that not being fashionable is not living?" "Oh, no. But I think not knowing

Thorndyke drooped his head for a moment and pulled at his gray mustache. "Well, after all, is death so

"Death?" she echoed, with a sudden flerceness of mien. "Oh, I think it is frightful! I do so hate the idea of dying! Don't you?" And as she leaned toward him, with the light a near lamp sending out the clear-cut grace and pallor of her neck, throat and chin, it occurred to him that she was extremely

Not unnaturally he thought of the sealed manuscript which of late he had delivered to her husband. And then, while remembering this, he also recollected the elixir (that "infernal nonsense" as he had long ago got to call it) which might very probably have formed the gist and pith of Egbert Maynard's

"If you so hate the doom of dying," he said, inwardly stirred by the idea of his own boldness and imprudence, "you might perhaps have read with interest the farewell lines which Sylvan's father left him and which I delivered to him on his twenty-fifth birthday. Or, it may be, your husband did not show you what I gave him. If that is true, then

"Yes, yes," she broke in, with an eagerness that was violence. "He did show me that letter-that singular letter. I-I have been thinking of it ever since; I can't keep my mind from dwelling on it. Did you not consider it a most amazing message?"

"I might judge better," replied Thorndyke, "if I could know what it was

"Why, didn't you know?" she fal-"I thought you were his inti-

mate friend." "I was-and at one time his very intimate friend. Though he never told me what was inside that envelope, I can guess its contents." He continued speaking for some time and ended with these words: "Of course it was a wild dream of Egbert Maynard's. Now and then the finest human intellects are beguiled just in this way." He saw her face fall, and then watched her as she nervously bit her lips. "You speak from your own experience as a chemist," she said, and the ring of disappointment in her voice was plain to him as would have been her tears if shed from the troubled glooms of her eyes.

"I'm not a chemist," Thorndyke hastened to reply; "I'm a physician-or Her looks brightened again. "Then you do not speak with any real cer-

tainty, after all.' "Ah, my dear lady! As if one could not be sure we had left the clixir of life and the philosopher's stone both very far indeed behind!"

"But this liquefaction of electricity which Sylvan's dead father describesfor which he offers the very formula of preparation-would you assert that to be mpossible?"

"I would-yes." Lucia mused for a moment, and then gave her head so earnest a negative shake that its flossy bronze-brown loops of hair emitted flashes in the lamplight like those from polished mahogany.

"But you are stating, in so many words," she exclaimed, "that Egbert Maynard was a madman." "There are many sane madmen in

She struck the edge of her chair impatiently with one clenched hand. "That is no answer. So many things

no more wonderful than his assumed invention have happened. To concentrate the vital principle of all existence-I see nothing more extraordinary in it than to achieve the telegraph, the telephone. At least, I can't understand why it should be scoffed at before it is tried."

Thorndyke laughed. "I don't scoff at it," he said. "But it is like having some one tell you that he had constructed an apparatus by means of which you could see round a corner."

"I can imagine such an apparatus being constructed."

"One can imagine the miraculous," skeptic amusement gleaming between his gray-bearded lips. "But I don't suppose that your husband will object to testing the truth or falsity of what his father so firmly believed.'

Lucia once more shook her head, and this time with a forlorn motion. "Object! You don't know him. He's already afraid of that prescription as though it were a cobra.'

"Afraid of it?"

"Assuredly." "And why?" queried Thorndyke, with a sudden recollection of how his

dead friend's dead wife had once deported herself. "Why?" Lucia repeated. She made a quick little gesture of exasperation and disgust. "He's a tremendously religious man, this husband of mine. Didn't you know that? Haven't you seen it? I think that from some sacred sense of filial respect he would never destroy those papers. But he's already locked them up somewhere, and regrets that he ever

allowed me to gain a glimpse of them." "You say that he's afraid of them?" asked Thorndyke, pierced with memories of Georgina Maynard's past behavior.

"Yes. They fill him with horror. I don't know if he has any faith in the chemical marvels they suggest. But he remembers that his mother more than once told him of how his father died an infidel." "Ah!" said her listener, drawing a long

breath. He felt as if some specter were in the room, viewless and yet palpable. "I see, Sylvan believes-" "That there would be something

blasphemous about such an achieveelbow. "But life as I long to have it ment," broke in Lucia, "even if it could and know it isn't for me. Sylvan cares possibly be made." She rose, and for a nothing at all about living, in my sense | moment appeared to listen intently. "That is he now," she at length said, in a quick, low, warning way; and almost immediately Sylvan entered. The doctor stayed for nearly an hour

longer, but during this time there was no resumption of the subject on which his wife and Thorndyke had been engaged. "He wishes to let it pass unmentioned from this time forward." the doctor told himself. "Ah! how heredity speaks here! And what a "And what is being a somebody here difference between the brothers! It is so easy to imagine Gerald full of ardor to try the truth of what his father has asserted, instead of being browbeaten at the outset by paltry, superstitious As more days went on, the doctor felt

piqued by Sylvan's continued reticence. Not to volunteer one syllable regarding a trust faithfully kept for many years! Such a course was tinctured with the dis-relish of crude manners, to say nothing of it more severe. By this time Thorndyke's term of sojourn in New York had almost drawn to a close. He had found that his investments and general business interests as a propertyholder in and near Chicago made it inconvenient if not quite impossible to remain much longer in the East. Besides, he had become fond of the huge town that has sprung up with so magic a speed if perhaps with an over-great willingness to be a trifle too impressed by itself as a prodigy. He felt actual home-sick longings to gaze again on some of those very features of it which long ago, as an immigrant Englishman, he had roundly ridiculed.

He decided that he would make no attempt to break the ice with Sylvan. It was ice of the young man's own freezing; let it stay rigid if he so willed. Pressing letters came from Chicago, and Thorndyke resolved to start at once. Before doing so he said to Sylvan that his brother would soon arrive in New York and that it would of course be better for Gerald to remain there a month or so before going into the West. "As regards your brother's feelings on the question of practising his new pro-



LUCIA SPRANG UP FROM THE CHAIR.

fession either here or in Chicago," he continued, "that is a matter which I shall want him wholly to decide for himself. My friend, Dr. Clyde, in East Thirtieth street, will always be his friend and counsellor. Clyde is young, and a trifle too imaginative I sometimes think for a physician. But he is immensely clever, has won a brilliant repute as a specialist in nervous diseases, and promises me that he will aid Gerald in every possible way."

Sylvan seemed to reflect for a brief while on the frank and genial sentences just heard. "Thank you very much," he presently said. "You have been so kind to Gerald that I am sure he must appreciate it most gratefully." "Confound the fellow!" Thorndyke

said to himself after quitting Sylvan's door-step. "He couldn't give me any heartier or more graceful answer than that! I can understand how his legal ability has already made him a lawyer with strong promise of success. Thank fate for the few men in this world who are not born either flint or pulp. I begin to think that character is the one thing we crave in our fellow-mortals, whether it be saintly or devilish."

And then a self-accusing smile gleamed on Dr. Thorndyke's face as he moved onward amid the ugly brownstone perkiness and "stylishness" of Fifth avenue. "After all," his musings proceeded, "what character have I? If ever there was a being without the vaguest social individuality, such a

biped is Ross Thorndyke." No doubt he was right in just the social sense of which he had made mental note. But when all is said, how often more potent as a factor of life is the heart richly brimming with kindness, the brain full of fraternity, humanitarianism, help! Those people who are "individual," who have angles of personality on which description can heard it in the court-room?" hang its essays of portraiture, are not by any means always the choicest to know, feel with and for, make friends and said, in a voice full of repellent of and cherish, in the surety of their | discords: standing cogent tests. Thorndyke lighty denounced himself as colorless, but nis place in whatever landscape of life this or that observer might have placed him would have resembled some strong and full-boughed tree which never inconceded Thorndyke, with a smile of trudes itself with the least saliency and skeptic amusement gleaming between yet can not be exiled from the picture "My heart tells me more, in a case "My without calamity of discord. He left like this, than my brain could ever do." the Maynard household, on taking his journey to Chicago, with thoughts of you in the shaping of some important Sylvan that were hurt though not at all | legal decision?" malevolent. He perceived, from certain parting words of Lucia's, delivered in swered. "There is hardly any great aside while her husband was present, danger of my jumbling together the that affairs weighed onerously on her spiritual and mundane." spirit. "He's more stubborn than ever,"

the young wife had found time swiftly to whisper, and her distressed under-

tone echoed itself in his ears likes knell tortured into fantastic cries by the train-clamors of his westward trip. He had indeed left Lucia in a very unhappy frame of mind. The idea of the

so-named elixir had taken hold of her imagination with a savage though covert force. Not loving her husband. she had thus far secretly exulted in the possession of a distinct power over him, seldom used, though relied on as a deep reserved fund. His firm refusal that she should again look upon the letter and manuscript lately delivered him, had first astonished and then ired her. A coldness grew up between them, each being aware of the other's reason for preserving it. But Lucia was the first to change these mutual conditions. Her dreams were now full of the precious drug concerning which Sylvan chose to maintain so piquing and mystic a silence. Did he then believe in its efficacy? Had he acquired some positive knowl edge on that head? The very thought almost took Lucia's breath away. Her husband, as she could not help feeling quite certain, would scarcely hesitate between burying the bequest under profound secresy and allowing just herself alone to profit by it, even were he sure that it meant a genuine victory for science. The more that she brooded over the chances of his piety taking this dog-in-the-manger form, the more she felt her nerves distressfully tingle. His scruples of a religious kind had not seldom bored her since their marriage; but these affected her with shuddering moods of disgust and chagrin.

On a certain evening, four or five days after Thorndyke had departed, Luch and Sylvan sat together at dinner. Dessert and coffee had been placed on the table: the servant had slipped from the room. They had just been speaking (both rather listlessly) of Gerald's intended voyage, when all at once it pleased Lucia to say:

"One can't help wondering what you will tell your brother when he asks you about that packet which Dr. Thornlyke recently gave you."

Sylvan started, colored, and then frowned a little. He prided himself upon his gentlemanlike manners, and she who listened to his voice had hardly ver heard it raised in shriller key than when he now replied:

"Tell Gerald? I have not thought of mentioning the subject to him. Why should I do so, pray?"

Lucia began to slide one white fingertip along the rim of her purple fingerbowl. "It would simply be natural if you did tell him; that is all." "I don't agree with you," he an-

swered, stolidly.
"You didn't think it unnatural," she said, "to rebuff me when I questioned you on the same subject." "I did not rebuff you. I gave you all

the information it was right to give. More than that, even. Better if I had preserved complete silence." She flashed him a challenging look across the pretty little table, with its

glimmers of silver and glass. "Why "What has caused you to rate me as unworthy of your confidences?" "It isn't that," he retorted, brusquely enough, for him, and tossing his head

with a show of the most unusual intolerance. "I explained to you; I explained fully. Your curiosity is unwarranted; it's rapacious, in fact." She gave a high, chill laugh. "Be-

cause I'm interested in what struck me as the great work of a striking intel-He smiled sourly. "Of an impious mind."

"You're speaking of your own father." "Yes-more's the pity." "And then you hold his accom ment as merely impious? You rank it as a fine and successful of scientific insight?"

He answered, at first, with a d shake of the head. "I don't kno thing about the brain-power it dis Nor do I want to know. I've the thing away-locked it up. to have burned it. It smells of Maynard's atheism. Only the his being my father has preven from destroying it. Some day Some day I feel that I shall."

Lucia sprang up from her chair sparkling eyes and trembling You shall not! You must not

exclaimed. He stared at her as though founded by her vehemence. name of God," he returned, "wh got hold of you? You've been a ent woman for days. Is it those pieces of paper? For a good whi suspected they'd bewitch you. I'm sure they have!"

CHAPTER V. After he had thus spoken she

quietly toward him until she ste side his chair. He at once pe that she had become extremely quil again.

Her voice soon gave him furthe of this. "I should not have behave citedly, Sylvan," she said. "But for you to destroy those papers be dreadful. It would be an insu at your father's memory. W they are of any real worth or left them to you with the desi you should test the idea, the hyp which they contain."

He rose and faced her almost f I do not wish to test it!" he de My poor mother prepared me ago, for something like this in his I never thought that I should be fronted with his ungodliness." "Ungodliness! you are a man of

Sylvan, a lawyer, a weigher truth against-' "I am a man who reveres hi tor," he broke in. "I abomina sort of attempt to fly in the Heavenly laws.' "But you do not abominate the

sician who seeks to save you from that could be desired, and yet the old death. "No physician presumes to prolong any life beyond its allotted time. "Oh, Sylvan, Sylvan! What would you say of such logic as this if you

He quite averted his look for a second or two. Then he turned to her again, "I see, Lucia. You believe that packet may hold in it some uncanny means by

bad enough.' which you may defy death." "If I had such a belief-" she began. now, and nothing you can say will p re-"It would be horribly sinful." vent it." ply assert; you deal with "But you sir me in the first place, it never would

"Would you let your heart dictate to

"You insult me as a Christian," he an-TO BE CONTINUED.

PITH AND POINT.

-A borrower of books is generally a thorough book - keeper. - Baltimore American.

-The love of the man who marries for money is founded upon the rocks.

-Pittsburgh Press. -Women's sweet disposition is al ways shown by her husband's long

hair.—Texas Siftings. -The counterfeiter is satisfied if he can spend money as fast as he can make it.-Yonkers Statesman. -He-"I always have you in my

mind." She-"I don't object. There is no danger of my getting beyond my depth." -The thermometer is a thing of

which everybody has a low estimate when it takes a high stand -Boston Transcript. -With some people it is not their own troubles so much as the happiness

of their neighbors that disturbs them. -Ram's Horn. -A turtle is very slow until he is made up into soup. Then we've noticed he goes pretty fast.-Yonkers

Statesman. -Tommy-What part of speech is 'woman?" Papa-"Woman" is no part of speech at all, my son. She is the whole of it. '-Judy.

-Clara-"Mr. Bristle, the artist,

wants me to stand for him as a model.' Maude-"What! Is he studying geometry?"-Cloak Review. -The young man who says "Thank you!" when the girl he loves has prom-

ised to be his wife ought never to say it in words.-Somerville Journal. -There is in Florida what the Starke Telegraph calls "a natural born newspaper man." It does not say whether

he was born daily or weekly.-Texas Siftings. -Not In.-Collector-"Is Mr. Dett in?" Servant-"No, sir, he is out." Collector-"When will he be in?" Servant (artlessly)-"As soon as you go

away."-Yankee Blade. -He-"You have a beautiful collection of pressed flowers." She-"Yes, but I lack one variety." He-"What is

that, pray? Perhaps I can secure it for you." She-"Orange blossoms." -"I feel like a queen-and you all are my pages," said the popular girl to the group of dudes surrounding her.

"Nearly enough to make a blank-book," remarked her envious rival.-Harper's Bazar. -As They Say It in Boston.-Miss Wabash-"This is a "measly" hotel, isn't it?" Miss Hubb-"It does partake of the characteristics of a malady com-

mon in early childhood."-Brooklyn Eagle. -That the ears of humanity are growing larger and their jaws growing less is but another illustration of the survival of the fittest. The man who keeps his ears open and his mouth shut is coming to the front.-Indianapolis Jour-

-A Last Resort .- "Do I think she yould marry you? Well, no. I think not." Jack-"You must be jesting." ing in which direction their best inter-Tom-."No, I am in earnest. You see she is only in her second season now. There is still hope for her."-Yankee Blade.

will be very much reduced or abolished -Next to the one who will let you altogether. talk all the time about yourself, the most pleasing companion in this world influence of pronounced single taxers. is the one who will occupy all this time and the growing body of those who in telling you of good things that other dimly observe a glimmer of the "cat." people have said about you. - Somervile is producing a marked effect. A year or two ago our best streets were cheer-

Journal. -"Rose," said her mother, "you'll | fully given away for nothing to an elechave to make that Mr. Golosh go home earlier." "It's not my fault, mamma."

ing a track-at the expense of the propu last o, Ed- erty owners along the line-to connect the cities of New Westminster and Vanstop | couver. The company wished this city to grant them "terminal facilities." This means three miles of streets to be opened and graded free, the company deciding on the route which offered it Editor the largest bynus. The scheme of this enterprising vorporation to capture a valuable franchise—as the possession of these streets in a few years would undoubtedly be-was promptly squelchlo Ex ed by the city council. An arrangement has now been concluded between the city and the company whereby the latter get their terminal facilities, but the city retains full control of the streets, with power to tax the company for their use, and the expense in opening and grading them. This agreement will be submitted to and voted on by the taxpavers next month, and no doubt will be carried with little opposiall the eleven

sweat

asked

avings

with

gainst

lady had not intended her middle-aged

"boy" to marry at all, and loud were

her complaints thereat. Finally the

minister called, to essay consolation,

and remind her that it was hardly best

to make the neighbors the confidants of

ful daughter to you," said he.

making the best of things."

said .- Youth's Companion.

"If you could only be resigned-"

when things go as I want them to!"

Evidently there was no more to be

her woes.

have happened."

snapped she.

A by-law for the city to purchase the water works will be voted for at the same time; and, as the terms are advantageous to the city, there are small fears of it, too, being passed.

The present Electric Light and Street Railway Co. has been approached with a view to the city buying it out also; so the probabilities are that before long Vancouver will own and operate its water works, electric light and street railway. There has been some hard and persistent fighting in the council to accomplish this much, and to our single tax friends there, headed by Alderman Brown, the credit and honors are directly due.

We have a powerful friend and ally in our morning paper, the News-Advertiser. It is on the people's side in all municipal matters, and admits single tax communications freely to its columns. Its editor, Mr. F. C. Cotton, is our senior member to the local legislature and has done excellent service there in helping to frame and pass the acts referred to. Altogether we feel encouraged by what has been done, and feel hopeful for the future. That our influence is enlarging and being felt in quarters that generally pretend to ignore it, is evidenced by the remark of a well known large real estate owner and speculator here, who, in answer to a friend's inquiry as to how things were in Union county, N. J., where sixty going with him, replied: "Oh, there's too many of those d-d single tax fellows around here to suit me."-W. A. Wilson, in the Standard.

### Rent as Part of Cost.

"I am sure Hulda will prove a duti-In analyzing the cost of producing "She'll do as well as she can," grumcommodities, rent is often named as an bled the old lady, "but her best'll be "Well, you know the deed is done, taxes, interest on taxes, and rent. This fact that comes to light goes to prove e to make. If rent were an element of cost it would nize in the Road Improvement associenter into the price of commodities, ation a new auxiliary. If the bicyclists thus shifting taxes on reut to the con-"But, my dear madam, this is not "There aint any best to some things!" was guilty of this false analysis. "Resigned? I'm always resigned

A little reflection will make it per- to the tax burden. fectly clear that rent is no part either of cost or price. The only distinctive clements of cost are wages of labor one place; that is land.—N. Y. Sun.

and, using the term in Its original sig-SINGLE TAX DEPARTMENT nification, blackmail. The former in cludes wear and tear of capital and in-THE SINGLE TAX WEDGE IN BRITterest on capital; the latter includes taxes on labor, interest on such taxes, and the exactions of monopoly. But VANCOUVER, B. C., August 31, 1891 .-The single tax cause in British Columbia is by no means at a stand still, though seldom heard from; but on the contrary, is becoming a strong factor

ISH COLUMBIA.

in shaping public opinion and influence

ing the provincial and municipal gov-

Indeed, during the present year our

cause may be said to have gained some

decided and signal victories, both in

the legislature and in our various mu-

A year ago all the public lands at the

were withdrawn from sale, in conse-

quence of the strong pressure brought

the agitation showing how the public

domain was being monopolized by mere

speculators, thus checking the settle-

ment and development of the country,

the last session of the provincial par-

liament, after a hard fight with the

'moss-backs," an amended land act was

passed with a clause changing the wild

two per cent. ad valorem. As some of

this wild land has become very valua-

ble, though unimproved, the difference

is no small one. The significant fact

about this is, that the tax is not on the

land as formerly, but on its value, and

the recognition of this principle in tax-

ation is the first step towards a total

province and probably throughout the

An important amendment has also

been made to the pre-emption law. Be-

fore this all that was needed to get a

deed for a pre-emption of 160 acres was

to employ an "agent" (generally China-

men) to burn off a few acres, and then

get two witnesses to swear in the ap-

olication that \$80 worth of improve-

ments had been done on the claim. The

patent was then issued on payment of

one dollar per acre. Now, in addition

to the "improvements" a house must be

erected, and cultivation and residence

proved before a patent is granted. This

alteration has effectaully put a stop to

speculators pre-empting land, selling

it, and then repeating the performance.

An act was also passed authorizing

municipalities to levy a tax on land

within their jurisdiction up to two and

a half per cent., and permitting the

taxing of improvements to be optional.

Here, again, is the thin edge of the

single tax wedge that before long will

split and break up speculation in town

lots, the curse of every city and village

on this coast. As a result of this enact-

ment, the municipalities of Surrey and

Langley have already adopted the ex-

emption of improvements from taxa-

tion, and as these two districts are

chiefly agricultural, the farmers are to

be congratulated for their clear sight-

edness in taking the initative in this

mportant movement, and for know-

ests lie. It is only a question of a very

little time when the taxing of improve-

ments anywhere in British Columbia

So far as this city is concerned, the

tric street railway company. Just now

there is another railway company build-

ernments.

nicipalities.

Dominion.

normal rent is neither wages nor blackmail. It is the difference in value between the least profitable opportunities to which labor resorts, and better opportunities. It is not part of cost, because at this least productive point there is no rent; and it does not enter into price, because price is determined by cost of production.

The farmer who tills soil naturally fertile gets in the same market no more for his grain, bushel for bushel, than the farmer who produces equally good grain from less prolific soil; his addisposal of the provincial government vantage is his ability to produce more grain with equal labor, and the value of this advantage determines the differto bear on the executive, resulting from ence in rent between the two farms. The merchant who occupies a choice location in the heart of his business district can charge no more for the same goods than one whose store is oa producing general stagnation and dull cheaper ground; his advantage is his times. The consequence was that at ability to sell more goods in given time and with given labor, and this advantage determines the difference in rent between the two places. The smoker who buys his eigar where rents are land tax from eight cents per acre to high pays no more, if as much, than one who buys the same quality of cigar where rents are low. The higher rents of the former place are paid, not by means of higher prices, but in consequences of quicker sales. Wages, house hire, value of furniture and interest are lower, relative to the volume of business done, in places of high rents than reversion of the land policy in this in places of low rents; and the accumulation of these advantages constitutes the difference in rent.

It is obvious that rent in these illustrations is no part either of cost or price. Supposing the poorer land in all the illustrations to command no rent, rent can not possibly be part of the cost of producing from it, or selling on it; and as produce sells at cost (cost of selling included), rent can be no part of the price. And since this is so of produce from the poorer land and of goods sold at the poorer locations, it must be so of those produced from and sold at the better. Or, as equal commodities sell in the same market at equal price, rent can not enter into the price of one unless it enters into the price of all; but it does not enter into the price of produce from land bearing no rent, and, therefore, it can not enter into the price of land bearing rent. And, inasmuch as no product can sell continuously below cost, the absence of rent as an element, of price proves its absence as an element of cost. For simplicity, we suppose the poorer opportunities in these llustrations to be rent free; but the principle would be the same if they were not, provided they commanded lower rent than the better opportuni-

ties, as they undoubtedly would. Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, is one of the men who makes this mistake of regarding rent as an element of cost, and proclaims rather than argues that a land value tax would be shifted. Because merchants and manufacturers charge up their rent as one of the items of their business expense, he infers that rent as well as wages is part of the cost of produce, and that they embody it in the price of their goods. If any man knows less about economic principles than Mr. Atkinson, the average merchant or manufacturer is that man; it is, therefore, quite appropriate that Mr. Atkinson should offer as proof of one of his vagaries the form of bookkeeping adopted by merchants and manufacturers. It is a modern instance

of the blind leading the blind. When Mr. Atkinson shows that merchants and manufacturers whose rent charges are high, habitually sell the same quality of goods for more than is got by competitors whose rent charges are lower, his proof will be pertinent. That which he now offers would be ruled out as irrelevant and incompetent in any court above the grade of a Vacit-

#### woods justice of the peace. Increase of Wealth.

The census bureau makes a prelin to ary statement of the assessed valuation of real and personal property in the United States in 1890, as compared with that of 1880, from which it appears that, according to the tax assessors, there was within the decade an average increase of wealth for each inhabitant of \$50.61. In making calculations from these figures, it must be remembered that they include increase in land values, which is no more an increase of wealth than is the value of a patent. It represents merely the higher sums people are willing to pay for using particular land rather than go without. Nor do the figures give any assurance that an actual increase of values of any kind-whether of land or wealth-has taken place, for they are assessment valuations, which are notoriously below, and often fluctuate from year to year without regard to, actual values. Higher assessments would give an appearance of increased wealth, when there was in fact a decrease. And even if the deduction from these figures, that there has been an average increase of wealth to the extent of over fifty dollars might be trusted, how could that indicate general prosperity? People are not made rich by averages, but by the wealth they have; and if the wealth of some enormously increased between 1880 and 1890, as we know it did, the average must be badly disturbed. One new millionaire would eliminate 19,999 other people from the

computation. Good Roads Without Taxation.

The chairman of the New York State Road Improvement association has written a tract, "The Gospel of Good Roads," in which, among many other interesting facts, he shows that miles of Telford road have been recently built, farm lands have advanced in value from \$50 and \$75 to \$200 an acre. The authorities of that county state that the increase in land values there caused by new roads would pay six times over the cost of every foot of such roads in the state. This is more than element. It is said, for example, that single tax men would claim, though cost includes wages of labor, wear and they recognize the principle and their tear of capital, interest on capital, agitation is based upon it. Every new is a mistake, and, for single tax advo- both the justice and the efficiency of sumer; and a shrewd adversary, by Road Improvement association, New pointing out the deduction, might easily York might soon have the best highconfuse the single tax advocate who ways and the most valuable farm lands in the union, without adding one penny